

APPENDIX ITEM 4

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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BOARD OF FORESTRY

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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June 28, 1990

TO: Bob Kerstiens, PFEC Board Representative

FROM: Bob Willhite *REW*

SUBJECT: Bob Heald's (PFEC Chairman) Suggestion for Range RPF

This memorandum is to summarize Bob Heald's suggestion discussed at the last PFEC meeting.

It is correct that members of the Range Community who want to manage wildland vegetation may qualify to take the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) exam under existing codes (Public Resources Code [PRC], Sections 752, 753, and 769; Title 14, California Code of Regulation [14 CCR], Section 1621.1[b][5]).

One of Mr. Heald's suggestions is to implement a Certified THP Specialist in addition to the license; this can be done by Board regulation (PRC, Section 759, 762 and 772, and 14 CCR 1650), and the idea has also been discussed among Directors of the California Licensed Foresters Association.

Now, and with regulation changes, all applicants must pass the RPF examination. The exam is intended to be a broad measure of an applicant's understanding and working knowledge of wildland resource management (14 CCR 1640.3). If Specialty Certificates are created, specialized information would be taken out of the general exam given every licensee, and instead be given in a specialty portion of the test. For example, with a Certified THP Specialist, questions on the Forest Practice Act would be presented only on that specialty exam.

Bob Heald suggested that specialties could be well-suited to the hardwood-range manager who after qualifying, would first take general RPF wildland management exam, and then take a Certified Hardwood-Range Specialist test. Existing questions on hardwood-range could be expanded by an Ad hoc Committee involving the range-livestock community. Those passing the both exams could use the title, Certified Hardwood-Range Specialist, RPF #____.

Regulations would have to clarify what services or duties a RPF passing the general exam can provide, and in addition, what activities are limited to those RPFs in each certified speciality.

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DISCUSSION DRAFT FOR REGULATIONS TO CREATE A CERTIFIED RANGE SPECIALIST FOR THE STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY'S PROFESSIONAL FORESTER'S LICENSE

December 06, 1990

Proposed language is underlined and existing language is not;
~~Strikeout-is-used-for~~ existing language proposed for deletion.

Title 14, California Code of Regulation (14 CCR)

Amend 14 CCR 1602.

1602. Professional Forestry Practice Defined. ~~Pursuant-to~~
~~Section-766-of-the-Code,-it-shall-be-unlawful-for-any-person-to~~
~~act-in-the-capacity-of-a-professional-forester-without-being~~
~~registered.~~ The term phrase "act in the capacity of ... a
professional forester without being registered" pursuant to
Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 766 refers to any person
who, for personal gain or compensation, or otherwise, working in
a responsible position as an individual or through the
supervision of others, performs services applicable to "forestry"
~~as-defined in PRC, Section 753 of-the-Code, and clarified in this~~
Section. which Forestry requires specific knowledge for providing
advice to, or management for, employers, clients, or others,
through consultation; through conduct of investigations in
forestry matters which have potential environmental effects, or
are for site-specific purposes; through evaluation of forest
properties; and through planning or execution of forest and
wildland programs, management, operations, or treatment.

A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) shall perform forestry
services only in those subjects competent by training or

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experience. Thus, for a RPF to accomplish a site-specific forestry project where the prudent level of expertise is surpassed, that RPF shall utilize the services of, and coordinate the activities of, other qualified experts including but not limited to: arborists, archaeologists, certified specialists established in addition to the RPF license, civil engineers, erosion control specialists, ecologists, fisheries biologists, geologists, hydrologists, landscape architects, livestock scientists, soil scientists, or wildlife biologists.

Disciplinary action in PRC, Section 778 regarding this Section utilizes "due process" procedures of establishing "standards of conduct" deemed "prudent" and "reasonably expected by a registrant's professional community" to determine when other experts should have been involved.

In carrying out Public Resources Code, Section 772, only a Professional Forester shall perform the following:

(Note: These tasks to be clarified from historical documents.)

Amend 14 CCR 1650

1650. Specialties. Only a person licensed by this Article Registered-Professional-Forester is eligible for certification in a specialty. Application may be submitted for both registration ~~as-a-professional-forester~~ and for certification in a specialty at the same time, but the applicant must be approved ~~for registration-as-a-professional-forester~~ as a licensee before ~~being-considered~~ consideration for certification in a specialty. ~~The-certification-in-a-specialty-is,-in-every-case,-dependent upon-the-approval-of-registration-as-a-professional-forester.~~

A certificate in each specialty created ~~will~~ shall be issued pursuant to Section 772 of the Code. Specialties ~~will~~ shall be created by regulation as the need arises.

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To protect the public interest, the following specialties shall be implemented and overseen by the Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing, with the assistance of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC):

- a) Certified Timber Harvesting Plan Specialist
- b) Certified Range Specialist

Adopt New 1652

1652. Certified Range Specialist [note - landowners are exempt on their own property]

a) Certification as a Range Specialist is required to provide services pursuant to 14 CCR 1602 relating to trees and woody plants growing in associations for production of forage for livestock.

b) A licensee with this Specialty shall serve on the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) to provide input on applicant qualifications, examinations, and discipline of this certificant.

c) Qualifications in this Specialty may be achieved by submitting evidence of either of the following:

1) A four (4) year Bachelor of Science degree from an institution approved by the Society for Range Management. [or this could be elevated to the SRM Certification program]*

2) Successful completion of a written exam offered the day preceding the scheduled license exams. All Board codes governing applications and examination apply.

* Note: Non-forestry degrees are currently only recognized for two years of experience substitution; this might be changed to three years towards the basic license.